

IN THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Currently Amended) A continuous method of production of carbon nanoparticles nanotubes, comprising:
continuously providing substrate particles;
providing on the substrate particles a transition metal compound that is a nickel, iron or cobalt formate or oxalate which is decomposable to yield the transition metal under a non-reducing atmosphere permitting carbon nanoparticle nanotube formation;

fluidizing the substrate particles with a flow of gaseous carbon source;
heating the transition metal formate or oxalate on the substrate particles;
before, during or after contacting the gaseous carbon source with the substrate particles, decomposing the transition metal formate or oxalate to yield the transition metal on the substrate particles;

forming carbon nanoparticles nanotubes by decomposition of the carbon source catalysed by the transition metal, wherein the catalyst is not pre-treated with hydrogen gas; and

collecting the carbon nanoparticles formed by elution.

2.- 6. (Cancelled).

7. (Previously Presented) A method as claimed in Claim 1, wherein the gaseous carbon source is a hydrocarbon or carbon monoxide.

8. (Original) A method as claimed in Claim 7, wherein the gaseous carbon source is methane or acetylene.

9. (Previously Presented) A method as claimed in Claim 1, wherein the gaseous carbon source is passed over the substrate particles.

10. (Previously Presented) A method as claimed in Claim 1, wherein the gaseous carbon source is mixed with a diluent.
11. (Original) A method as claimed in Claim 10, wherein the diluent is argon.
12. (Previously Presented) A method as claimed in Claim 1, wherein the substrate particles comprise oxide particles and/or silicate particles.
13. (Original) A method as claimed in Claim 12, wherein the substrate particles comprise one or more of silica, alumina, CaSiO_x , calcium oxide or magnesium oxide.
14. (Previously Presented) A method as claimed in Claim 1, wherein the substrate particles are in the form of a fumed powder, a colloid, a gel or an aerogel.
15. (Previously Presented) A method as claimed in Claim 1, wherein the transition metal compound is decomposed by heating.
16. (Original) A method as claimed in Claim 15, wherein the transition metal compound is decomposed by heating to a temperature between 200°C and 1000°C.
17. (Original) A method as claimed in Claim 16, wherein the transition metal compound is decomposed by heating to a temperature between 600°C and 1000°C.
18. (Cancelled)
19. (Previously Presented) A method as claimed in Claim 1, wherein the carbon nanotubes are single walled carbon nanotubes.
20. (Previously Presented) A method as claimed in Claim 1, further comprising the initial step of impregnating the substrate particles with the transition metal compound.

21.-22. (Cancelled).

23. (Currently Amended) A method as claimed in Claim 1, comprising:
continuously providing substrate particles to an upper part of an inclined
surface;

contacting the substrate particles on the inclined surface with a flow of
gaseous carbon source;

heating the transition metal compound on the substrate particles; and
collecting carbon ~~nanoparticles~~ nanotubes formed from a lower part of the
inclined surface.

24. (Currently Amended) A method as claimed in claim 1, wherein
heating the transition metal ~~oxalate, or formate~~ compound on the substrate
particles to decompose the transition metal ~~oxalate, or formate~~ compound to the
transition metal occurs before contacting the substrate particles with the flow of
gaseous carbon source.

25. (Currently Amended) A method as claimed in Claim 24, wherein the
transition metal ~~oxalate or formate~~ compound is nickel formate and the substrate
particles are silica particles.

26. (Cancelled)